

Lake St./Midtown Station Renovation

Open House Summary Report

2/18/2025

Project Overview

The Lake St./Midtown (Hi-Lake) station renovation project is part of Metro Transit's initiative to enhance the safety, accessibility, and functionality of key transit locations. The renovation plans for the Lake Street/Midtown Blue Line Station focus on improving infrastructure, including changes to staircases, the addition of a ramp, and other station amenities. As part of the project's community engagement process, feedback was collected before the beginning of the design phase to ensure that community voices are heard and reflected in the final plans. This open house was for the public to see the design renderings, ask questions, and offer opinions on the project thus far.

Our goals for the open house were to:

- Share the current state of the project and offer renderings of its design phase.
- Provide opportunities for community members to ask questions, provide feedback, and meet members of the Metro Transit, 4RM+ULA, NEOO Partners, and Lake St. Safety Center teams.
- Continuing building relationships with our community members

Highlights

- **TRIP Team** attended and shared:
 - Tips with community members on riding routes that tend to be more prone to security issues; for example, sitting near the front of the bus and being able to speak with the bus operator and text for safety.
 - TRIP Agent job promotional materials.
 - Answered questions related to transit security, specifically on light rail and BRT
- **Lake Street Safety Center** attended and shared:
 - Information about the Safety Center and South Minneapolis Community Safety Center as well as updates on the Safety Ambassadors on Lake Street and Franklin Avenue planned for spring 2025.

- Flyers with details on the Lake Street Safety Center, South Minneapolis Safety Center, and Safety Ambassadors.
- Answered questions regarding safety on specific bus routes and security on the light rail

Event Overview

- **Attendees:** Between 50-60
- **Date:** February 11, 2025
- **Location:** Coliseum Building | 2708 E. Lake St, Minneapolis, MN 55406
- **Notification Methods:** Social media (Facebook), Rider Alerts (Zip code based), Project newsletter, Project website, Email blast, at-station alerts, and community newsletters and bulletin boards.
- **Focus Areas**
 - **Provide general information:** Shared project renderings.
 - **Station Accessibility:** Ramp access, community space, and elevator access from street.
 - **Safety:** A representative from the Lake Street Safety Center was there to answer questions about the services they offer. TRIP agents were also there to discuss their role in safety within transit
 - **Food and Beverage:** Taco bar with toppings and water were available.
 - **Language Accessibility:** We provided an ASL interpreter, Spanish, and Somali interpreters were also present to remove communication barriers.

Key Findings

- 1. Safety Concerns:**
 - Community members were satisfied to hear that 24-hour security will remain at the station.
 - Lighting was a concern, and they were happy to hear that it would be increased under the bridge, inside the station, as well as in the outside common area.
 - They expressed concerns about the Lake Street Safety Center relocating from current location across the street from the station.
- 2. Design:**
 - Community members were happy to see the clear sight lines along the platform, increasing their feeling of being safe.
 - We were asked about plans for public restrooms.
- Members asked about the project's timeline and expressed concerns about alternative routing.
- 3. Weather Protection:**
 - Community members were pleased with the mesh metal siding that will not only reduce wind and rain effects but will also provide shade.
 - Members had questions about heaters, and what that will look like. They were unsure if heated benches would be sufficient.

Community Feedback

- We provided a post-event survey and asked that all community members complete them before leaving the event. NEOO Partners are currently tallying the results and will share them with us once completed.

Station Renderings:

STATION MAINTENANCE AND RIDER COMFORT

CANOPY



RAMP ENTRANCE



PLATFORM EXPERIENCE



PLATFORM EXPERIENCE



PERFORATED METAL
ORANGE LINE - 75TH & 105th



PERFORATED METAL
ORANGE LINE - 125th & 128th



PERFORATED METAL - ORANGE
LINE - 125th & BURDICKVILLE PARKWAY

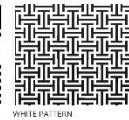
Perforated metal panels serve as a new windscreen to allow natural light and open-air. The previous shelters have been replaced with benches, providing clear sight lines. Current colors and perforation patterns (under development) for the metal panels: detailed below.



COLOR



GOLD PATTERN



WHITE PATTERN

IMPROVE RIDER EXPERIENCE

SAFETY



SOUTH ENTRY

SAFETY STRATEGIES



SOUTH STAIR ENTRANCE



LIGHTING PERCEPTIVE FROM 135W & LAKE



CLEAR SIGHT LINES ON PLATFORM



STAFF PRESENCE

IMPROVE RIDER EXPERIENCE

NEW STATION AMENITIES

Survey responses indicated that these amenities would enhance the station experience:



NEW AMENITIES BEING CONSIDERED



Transit Service Center resources:

- Trip planning and schedules
- Purchase and reload fare passes
- Answer general questions about Metro Transit Service
- Address Administrative Citations

IMPROVE STATION ACCESSIBILITY

PEDESTRIAN RAMP



STATION AND PARK VIEW

The pedestrian ramp provides an accessible route to the station for all riders. A diverse range of transit users may benefit from this feature, including individuals with limited mobility, as well as those traveling with strollers, bicycles, luggage, or other heavy items.

RIDER SURVEY RESPONSES ABOUT THE NEW PEDESTRIAN RAMP

69% agreed that the pedestrian ramp was important, regardless of whether they would use it.

"There are people out there with knee, hip, or other pain that do not necessarily make them disabled. I think a ramp would be beneficial to a lot of riders"

"More options for accessibility & inclusivity, seating options, space for plants to grow, and makes room for trees and shade"

"I have knee trouble and walking up a gentle slope is easier than going up and down all those stairs. Today I used the escalator, but it only goes up, not down. A ramp does both."

"I use a power wheelchair and the elevators are difficult to use, if they are even working. A ramp never breaks down"



PARK VIEW - TERRACED SEATING



ACCESSIBLE RAMP WALK - TRANSIT ACCESS



GUARDRAILS

BIKE ACCESS + SITE SEATING

PLAYGROUND

TERRACED SEATS + LANDSCAPE

IMPROVE STATION ACCESSIBILITY

Stairs and Elevators

The station entrance north of Lake Street has a simple, compact design due to the space available, and the need to integrate with new wider sidewalks and a bikeway. The entrance includes an open-air stairway and new elevator, facing Lake Street.

The station entrance south of Lake Street has a more expansive design to better integrate with the adjacent Market Square. The entrance includes a tiered open-air stairway and new elevator, facing Lake Street. Also available is a new pedestrian ramp. See the next board for more details on the ramp



NORTH OF LAKE ENTRANCE



SOUTH OF LAKE ENTRANCE



SOUTH OF LAKE ENTRANCE



EXISTING NORTH OF LAKE ENTRANCE



EXISTING SOUTH OF LAKE ENTRANCE



LAKE STREET / MIDTOWN STATION



3D: RENDERING LAKE STREET APPROACH



3D RENDERING : LAKE ST/MIDTOWN PROPOSED PLAZA LEVEL

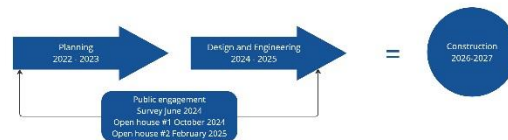


3D RENDERING : LAKE ST/MIDTOWN PROPOSED PLATFORM SIDE VIEW

PROJECT GOALS



PROJECT TIMELINE



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

The engagement survey was conducted in June 2024 and garnered over 280 responses.

- Participants were asked to:
- Provide feedback on stair design
 - Provide feedback on the inclusion of a pedestrian ramp
 - Rank potential station amenities

On October 16, 2024, we held the project's inaugural Open House at the YWCA, which was attended by more than 50 community members. During this event, we shared project information and outlined the design direction. Representatives from the MPD, MTPD, and TRIP were present to address safety concerns.

For further project information and to sign up for our newsletter, please visit: www.metrotransit.org/hi-lake



Event Photos:



